

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES



February 24, 2021

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Wheatley:

This letter describes how the Pascua Yaqui Tribe plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. **Direct Services/Subsidies.** The Lead Agency plans to use child care subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, food service workers and essential and frontline workers during the response to coronavirus. These workers will be determined by tribal definition and include employees who work with the public such as grocery store workers. The eligibility criteria will be expanded, income eligibility will be waived, parent co-payments will be waived.
2. **Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices.** This area is tentative as plans have not been determined yet. We will meet with our focus group to determine how to use funds in this area. The Lead Agency would like to hire a consultant to help provide technical assistance training in COVID topics: disinfecting/Sanitation in Provider homes and assist with policy and procedures in this area. Assist with PPE items to help Child Care Providers meet the guidelines. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items will be distributed to parents to keep in their vehicles such as hand sanitizing wipes, thermometers for temperature check prior to entering facilities.
3. **Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers.** The Lead Agency plans to provide mini-grants to Child Care Providers to enhance their home environment such replacing area rugs, furniture, washer/dryer, fencing, air purifiers and AC/heating and expand outdoor play area with jungle gyms, canopies, turf, portable wash basins, laptops, storage shed and children's tablets.

4. **Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic.** The Lead Agency will collaborate with the Tribal TANF program to determine the relative providers who are not in our subsidy program prior to the pandemic and provide PPE items, care packages with cleaning supplies, professional cleaning/disinfecting services, portable wash basins, assist with child care cost, and food voucher assistance.
5. **Other.** The Lead Agency plans to use at least half of these funds for construction of a child care center. To purchase a van and/or mini-bus to assist with transportation to and from child care centers. To hire staff to assist with the increased eligibility, recruitment, billing and transporting.

The Lead Agency will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael Pries,
Children Services Director
Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Cc: Paul Noski, Region IX Regional Program Manager
Christina Warren, Region IX Program Specialist, Office of Child Care
DaQuan-Lee Cook, Program Specialist/COVID-19 Response